

TECH.EDU

The New Digital Divide

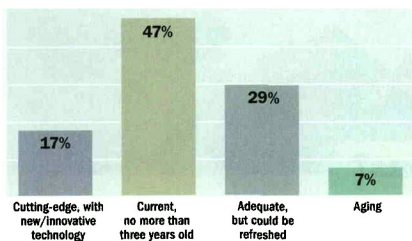
What we think about tech (and how students really see it).

The term "digital divide" has traditionally referred to the technology gap between financially secure suburban districts and their poorer urban counterparts. Another digital divide, however, is cause for concern: the disparity between how educators view their use of technology and how students perceive its use. Simply put, schools are falling short of kids' expectations about how technology can and should be used in the classroom.

A new survey by CDW-G highlights this rift. Three-quarters of teachers say they consistently use technology, but only 40 percent of students get their hands on these tools on a regular basis. Almost all students (94 percent) report using tech to complete homework, while fewer than half of teachers (46 percent) incorporate it into assignments. Everyone would agree schools were failing if kids felt the only place they read books or solve math problems is at home. And yet, say 86 percent of students, schools have left another key literacy—technology use—outside the classroom. One student summarized schools' need to play catch-up: "Technology will play a major role in my future... if I am exposed to it now, I will be able to adapt to it later."

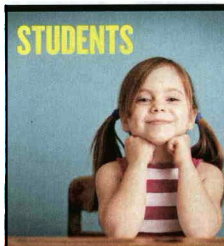
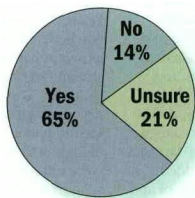
IT OPINIONS: Tech is improving

IT leaders who say their district's technology is cutting-edge or current rose from 41 percent last year to 64 percent this year.

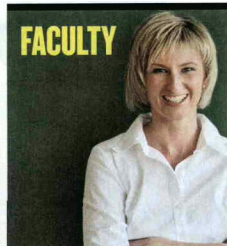


Planning Your Upgrades

Does your district have plans to upgrade or improve classroom technology in the next two years?



STUDENTS



FACULTY

94%

of students say they use technology to work on class assignments at home

46%

of teachers say they regularly assign homework that requires the use of technology

30%

of students think smartphones are essential 21st-century classroom tools

17%

of teachers think smartphones are essential 21st-century classroom tools

59%

of students use technology to communicate with their peers daily

14%

of students use tech to communicate with their teachers daily

49%

of students believe faculty know how they want to use technology

74%

of faculty say they think they understand how students want to use tech

41%

of students say they are encouraged to use tech throughout the school day

75%

of faculty say they regularly use technology to teach in the classroom